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of modern European history with the emphasis on nationality, its various origins and developments. There is, moreover, quite a bit of political philosophy thrown in, and some interesting prophecies are made of two possible types of peace and their attendant results. To students of history the book will prove a helpful review of familiar facts and their bearing on that topic of special interest at present, nationality and war. To those less well acquainted with Europe's past, *Nationality in Modern History* presents an opportunity to acquire a knowledge of facts essential to an intelligent consideration of present conditions and future developments,—facts given in a most interesting style and, as the author expresses it, in “as objective and impartial a treatment as present conditions admit.”

MARY LEE HICKMAN.

The Law of Contraband of War. By H. REASON PYKE. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1915. Pp. xl, 314.)

To those who from a sense of scholarly duty have attempted to thread their way through the British orders in council, the American protests, the British replies and further American protests, the present volume will come as a welcome light in the darkness. Mr. Pyke sets out to trace the origin and development of the fundamental principles of the law of contraband based upon the practice of the chief naval powers in different periods, and from the outset he disclaims any purpose of settling the moral questions involved in the alleged inconsistency of trade, by neutral citizens, in munitions of war with the principle of non-intervention followed by the neutral government. The laws of neutrality are as a whole not a consistent body of rules, being the result of a compromise between the conflicting interests of belligerents and neutrals; hence in place of abstract consistency the author suggests that new developments of the law be based upon deduction from the usages which have gradually grown up as a result of the special conditions of particular wars.

The historical treatment of the origin and development of the principles of the modern law of contraband presented in Chapter V will be of considerable value in furnishing the background for an understanding of present controversies. Step by step, belligerents have enlarged the sphere of interference with neutral trade to meet the circumstances of modern warfare, subordinating neutral interests to belligerent needs, until we reach the point where, in consequence of conscript armies,

the old distinction between absolute and conditional contraband is practically destroyed, and belligerents have even attempted to make neutrals bear the burden of a policy of reprisals against the enemy, and have asked to be excused from the duties of humanity because of the inconvenience of carrying them out.

Chapter VI shows the position of the neutral government with respect to trade in contraband, and clears up the distinction between what the individual citizen may do and the state may not do. In Chapter XII the doctrine of continuous voyage is viewed from every angle, and the conclusion is reached that the conditions of modern warfare demand that the destination of the goods be taken as the test and not merely the destination of the ship, as in the earlier British cases. Chapter XIV deals with contraband in the war of 1914-1915 and is a defense of the British reprisals against Germany. An appendix contains the Declaration of London accompanied by the report of the drafting committee, together with other documents bearing upon the subject. An excellent bibliography, classified according to subject matter, gives additional value to a work which has much intrinsic merit.

C. G. FENWICK.

Anglo-American Isthmian Diplomacy, 1815-1915. By MARY WILHELMINE WILLIAMS. (Washington: American Historical Association. 1916. Pp. xii, 356.)

This book shows great industry and very conscientious presentation of material covering, in considerable detail, the entire history of diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Great Britain in relation to Central America. Large use has been made of the unpublished diplomatic records of both countries; and to these and to printed sources, reference has been made with a minute care which is almost meticulous, but which must be helpful to anyone making an equally detailed study in the future. Without present means of checking the author's statements of fact, it can only be said that critical attention has plainly been given to the perplexingly contradictory versions of all Central American affairs.

The author's judgment is balanced, and her presentation of the subject appears just. The book is far, however, from being the last word on the subject. Useful as the volume is, it is lacking in the power to seize the truly vital, to bring out with distinctness the larger aspects of the topic. On the basis of this intensive study, more significant